

MINUTES of the NEWTON UPPER FALLS AREA COUNCIL

September 15, 2022 7:00 p.m.

Pursuant to *An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations*, Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, signed into law by Governor Baker on July 16, 2022, this will be an Online/Telephone Meeting

Participation Details: Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/714158912>

Meeting ID: 714 158 912

One tap mobile +16468769923,,714158912# US (New York) +16699006833,,714158912# US (San Jose)

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Meeting ID: 714 158 912

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ani0ErE3g>

Area Councilors in Attendance:

Anil Adyanthaya (President)

Jeff Riklin (Vice President)

Jay Werb (Treasurer)

Marie Jackson

Kathaleen Brearley (Secretary)

Julie Irish

Jack Neville

City Councilors in Attendance:

Bill Humphrey

Invited Guests

Michael Medeiros: Northland

Liora Silkes, City of Newton Energy Coach

September 15, 2022 7:00 p.m. Meeting commenced at 7:05

1) Approval of Minutes from August Meeting (5 minutes)

Marie motioned to approve the minutes and Julie seconded this motion.

The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as amended.

2) Treasurer's Report (5 minutes)

Jay W. reported there is currently about 6K in the bank after the 1K donation from Village Bank was deposited. The only spending since last month was \$185.00 to purchase the gate for the River Walk behind The Braceland Playground that was discussed at the August meeting.

3) Public Comment/Questions?

4) Liora Silkes, City of Newton Energy Coach, presentation of Newton's "4 Our Future" energy saving program (15 minutes)

Liora Silkes, recently appointed as Energy Coach for the City of Newton, presented resources available through her office to the community. Her work focuses on Climate impact and the future of our community : With increasing flooding and drought, how do these impacts effect the future of our community and our homes? How can we strategize to ensure the longevity of comfortably remaining in our homes?

Silkes recommends the first step for concerned homeowners is to reach out to MassSave as well as Newton's dedicated Energy experts who are available for consultation.

The main categories of their efforts are:

1. How to weatherize our homes
2. How to help residents consider installation of Heating/Cooling pumps
3. How to move our means of transport toward Electric Vehicles
4. How to incorporate renewable energy, particularly Solar

- [Newtonma.gov/4ourfuture- energycoach@newtonma.gov](http://Newtonma.gov/4ourfuture-energycoach@newtonma.gov)
- Newton's goal is 100% Carbon Neutrality by 2050
- For further information, Liora Silkes will be at Village Day in Upper Falls (10/2)

5) Zoning Engagement and Joint Area Council meeting and presentation on Zoning at Waban Library, Saturday, September 24th and Tuesday, October 4 (10 minutes)

With the October 16th deadline for community feedback on the ZAP proposed Zoning Framework in mind, the goal of this joint (area council) presentation is to utilize the Area Councils to get information out to the community on the proposed Zoning Framework and the engagement process. Julie I. proposed that it might be easier to present to the specifics that are relevant to Upper Falls for greater efficiency, given that the materials are dense.

A high school student reached out to Anil to ask how he could participate at Village Day. This might be an opportunity to have a table with materials about the zoning proposals from the Planning Dept and information about the community engagement process. The challenge will be which materials to share at Village Day since they are voluminous. Anil thought we could have the Community Engagement table next to the Area Council/check in table. Jay and Julie did review the materials as official liaisons for ZAP engagement. The materials serve as an educational tool and an introduction. Jay suggested that we could form an unofficial subgroup of four to look at these materials more in depth. Julie, Jay, Anil, and Kathaleen volunteered to meet on Thursdays as a subgroup to discuss the Engagement Tool Survey on the zoning materials related to the new proposed framework.

6) 8:00PM: Northland Updates: Presentation by Northland (30 minutes)

Jay (as member of the Northland Liaison Committee) introduced this presentation: Rather than reporting from the August meeting himself he invited Michael Medeiros to share the presentation with NUFAC.

Highlights:

Above grade demolition is complete. Below grade demolition will begin over the next few weeks. Construction will intensify in the coming weeks. This will include above grade demolition, utility work, and below grade demolition.

Medeiros also described in detail the plan for utility tie ins; including sewer and water in tandem with the new water main that is currently being installed by MASS DOT for the City on Needham Street. Jay asked about excavation information and whether members of the community could find details about what has been excavated on the Northland site. DEP refers to the data on excavated materials a RAM: Medeiros reported that once they dig below the fill, they will reach an area of solid Glacial till.

7) Expenses for 2022 Village Day and related planning (10 minutes)

1. **a) Update** (42-43 Registrations) Anil is concerned that we are missing some of the specialized entertainment for village day – for example, the magician has not replied.
2. **b) Food/Coffee** A Food Truck is interested but Julie and Anil are still confirming reservations.
3. **c) To do's**
 1. **i) Vendors/Participants Update**
 2. **ii) Publicity** Jeff R has updated that the signs and banners for Village Day. Discussion followed on how to display the signs as banners or on sandwich boards. Jeff R will reach out to Carol (Parks and Rec) to move forward with posting them.
 3. **iii) Entertainment Update**
 4. **iv) Area Council Tent & Zoning Engagement Tent**
 5. **v) Space Assignments**

Anil asked Jeff to help design the space for the tables and marked the spaces and numbering them for all the participants.



8) Community Concert at the Depot on Sunday, September 18 (5 minutes) Chad Perrone and Dennis Carrol will be performing in Pettee Sq 3-4pm as part of the City Fall Concert Series.

9) Pettee Square Improvement Plan and La Nuestra Cannabis Retail Store (5 minutes)

Per Councilor Humphrey: Following the hearing Tuesday of this week, Nuestra worked out an arrangement with the adjacent nursery school. The Land Use Committee sent it straight over to the full city council who will vote on this at their upcoming meeting.

10) General Upper Falls News (5 minutes) The trash issue at 70 Linden St that was discussed last month was resolved by the owner, who expressed some concern about trash in the area in general.

Julie proposed that there might be a need for regular trash clean up all around the Telegraph/Gamewell parking lot in general.

Jeff Riklin: reported on 5am pick up of trash at the Stone Institute that was repeatedly in violation of city rules on start time.

11) Public Comment/Questions?

12) Adjourn Anil motioned to adjourn the September meeting at 9:01PM and Jay seconded this motion.

The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA/Sec. 504 Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.